

# CALIFORNIA GARDEN

SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA

JULY - AUGUST, 1909

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## Editorial:

### Fifty Years of Growing

The San Diego Floral Association was organized in 1907 by a group of garden amateurs. Two years later, *California Garden* sprang full blown from the fertile mind of Alfred D. Robinson, president of the club. As editor, on and off, for two decades, he fed the monthly with his delightful humor, while horticultural experts like Miss Kate Sessions, rose specialist E. Benard, George Hall of "Little Landers" colony, and many others, cultivated each column.

R. R. McLean, followed by Silas Osborn, both of the U.S. Dept. of Agriculture, ploughed on for the next ten years. Thomas McMullen and Roland S. Hoyt kept the roots alive during the depression and World War II, until, in 1945, Alfred Hottes remodeled it into a four season quarterly.

Today the San Diego Floral Association presents a facsimile of the first two numbers of its 1909 *California Garden* as its "Summer" edition, Vol. 50, No. 2. We believe this garden magazine is the only one in the United States to be produced by its original sponsors over a period of fifty consecutive years.

The "Autumn" issue for 1959, double in size and circulation, will celebrate the "Golden Jubilee" of *California Garden*. It will present the garden picture of the last fifty years from the horse-and-buggy, trolley, and gaslight stage to this space age; a span that covers the introduction of subtropical fruits and ornamentals, so familiar to us now, most of our parks, rose development and other stories, all under well-known by-lines, plus telling excerpts from our own files. You will not want to miss Vol. 50, No. 3, the Anniversary Number. Ask for it at your local nursery.

"Summer" edition, Vol. 50, No. 2.

### CALIFORNIA GARDEN

Published Quarterly by the

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# THE CALIFORNIA GARDEN

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Vol. 1

SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA, JULY, 1909

No. 1

## FOREWORD

The California Garden makes its bow to the good folks of San Diego, with this, its first issue. It desires to be confidential, and frankly state how it comes to be published, and what it hopes to accomplish. In the first place, it is the official organ of the San Diego Floral Association, the objects of which are all towards a more beautiful city, a city of gardens—taking advantage of its wonderful climatic conditions and realising some part of its possibilities floriculturally. In addition to faithfully recording the doings of the association, it proposes to give practical and timely information with regard to the flower garden and the vegetable patch. It will tell each month how to take care of that which is already growing, and what to plant beside. And the information will be furnished by local authorities from their own experience. Indigenous plants of merit will be dealt with in special illustrated articles, and the latest introductions in the floral world, worthy of a trial in this locality, will be brought to the attention of its readers. Though the publications devoted to gardening in the United States are most numerous and meritorious, they utterly fail as guides in San Diego. No rain in summer, no snow or frost in winter, a green and growing land at Christmastide, entirely upset their calculations. Florally San Diego is a law unto itself, and this magazine hopes to emphasize the workings of that law. The California Garden has already secured the support of most of the local authorities upon subjects within its province. It has in preparation articles of great interest relating to local plants, shrubs and flowers, and it intends to open a query box for the many new-comers, and almost as numerous old residents, who just want to know.

Like all the activities of the San Diego Floral Association, this, its organ, is engineered by volunteers. Its object is purely to make more effective the efforts of the association, so the subscription for a year has been fixed at the nominal sum of twenty-five cents, in the expectation that its circulation will be large and widespread. It should be in every house, whether there is a garden attached or not.

## THE JULY FLOWER GARDEN

K. O. SESSIONS

The July garden demands considerable work—and principally watering. The flowers and grass rejoice in a good sprinkling late in the afternoon and evening, and during the warmer weather it is much more beneficial—but do not withhold water because it is hot and sunny. Irrigate rather than sprinkle—and be very generous. Much mulching helps out the hard work of constant cultivating at this time, and is very beneficial to the plants. Coarse sawdust, or sawdust that has been used for stable bedding, is cheap, convenient and of use to the soil,—and, above all, it brings no weeds.

July is just the month for Bougainvillea planting or transplanting. Large plants can be moved with bare roots, if handled carefully, and not too severely pruned back—also the winter flowering begonias.

The charming Watsonias should be transplanted at this time, and your oxalis and freesia bulbs dug, ready for resetting (if you wish to do so) in August.

One of the chief needs is the pinching back of the central shoot of all young carnation plants. They should be the size of a saucer, at least, before they are allowed to bloom.

Asters are growing fast now, and must be generously cultivated and can be sprayed until the flower buds begin to show color, and after that irrigated.

The chrysanthemums need their last pinching back, if large and busy plants are desired, and judiciously thinned, if only one of three stems are to remain. From now on they must have constant and generous care—plenty of water and mulching and even fertilizer. Stakes in abundance must be made ready and plans for shading the best blooms thought out.

In the winter we certainly enjoy all and any flowers, and many of the com-

mon spring annuals may be made to bloom from December on, if planted during the next thirty to fifty days—such as seed of corn flower, scarlet flax, California poppy, bellis or daisy—for the winter borders, cosmos, phlox, centaureas, stock, calendula, marigolds and mignonette. The latter should be planted in succession, three weeks apart, and not too much at a time—but whoever had too much mignonette? Besides, if it is like a weed over the garden it is most welcome and effective; and seeds scattered in the shade of shrubs or trees, or even under rose bushes, will often grow better than in the open. Establishing a bed of seedlings at this time is constant care, and result are often not generous, but it pays. Mignonette, in particular, likes plenty of water to germinate well; and all the seeds need, is shading with brush or a light mulch of straw or very coarse sawdust.

If the violet bed has not been thinned, runners cleaned off, or a new bed made—do so at once. It is a precaution to those not experienced to save some of the old violet plants in their places—but trim out the old stems. Cut back the rankest leaves; fertilize well with pulverized manure, and water generously from now on. For plants like violets and pansies the fertilizer must be thoroughly mixed with the soil.

Ferneries and begonia beds can be planted or added to with good results before the fall, but after August the growth is not satisfactory, though it gives excellent results the next year. Those who go to the mountains with their own conveyance, or can ship in a few sacks of leaf mold from beneath the old oaks, should do so, for nothing is better for the ferns and begonias.

In the way of trimming, very little is needed now, excepting the roses may take some trimming of old flowers and seeds and flower stem wood. They are making their summer growth and bloom now, and during August and September

will need to be kept dryer and allowed to rest.

All vines are growing fast, and can be directed and trained now with good results.

Smilax should be transplanted and started on at once. If it has already begun to make new shoots, and they are 6 to 12 inches long, better thin out the bulbs and place strings for the shoots left. Every two years, at least, smilax should be overhauled, for it grows so rank here that it is impossible to grow it in strings useful for cutting—if too old. Smilax does best on the north side, the east being second choice.

Any evergreen trees or shrubs that are needed should be hurried into the ground, and all palm planting should be done at once. It is a very excellent plan to look up a matured specimen of the palm you wish to plant, measure it and observe it, and plant accordingly. Lots of blunders in planting would thus be avoided—in fact, it applies to all plants, but trees and palms in particular. One must consider their size at ten to fifteen years at least—if not fifty years.

## THE ROSE GARDEN FOR JULY

E. BENARD

After the exertion of spring blooming, the roses, as a general thing, are resting, and now is a good time to clean them up. All shoots that have borne blooms should be shortened at least half, and those that are weakly, or growing in an undesired manner, removed. A good feed of bone meal or barnyard manure may be given with advantage. This is best accomplished by making a trench round isolated bushes, or between rows, in regular rose gardens, putting in the fertilizer, then filling the trench with water, two or three times will do no harm, and covering when the ground will work without puddling. Never put fertilizer up to the stems of roses, remember they feed from the end of the

roots, not the stem, and cultivate the whole ground whenever you have time, and see that you do take time, anyway after every watering, at least once every three weeks. Barnyard manure can be used quite fresh; in fact it is better so than the evaporated refuse usually supplied as well-rotted manure, if sufficient moisture to prevent too much ferment is also given. The juices, so to speak, of the manure, form the plant food, not the bulk, though the latter has its use in supplying the humus quality to the soil. Fertilizing now will very much improve the fall crop of blooms, as it will stimulate root action, and this is where the flowers begin.

Anyone who desires to try budding, can practice now, the process is simple and so well known that space cannot be given in this article to describe it. Budded roses seem to do better than ones on their own roots in this climate, with a few exceptions, and the stock that gives best satisfaction is Rosa Canina, or Rosamond. The Manetti, so generally used a few years back, gives a quick growth, but is short-lived.

This being a half dormant time with roses, stock grown in boxes can be safely planted out, in spite of the prevailing idea to the contrary. Such will give a crop of bloom in the fall and will be in first-class shape for the spring. In case anyone desires to plant now, some comments on proven varieties for this section are indulged.

In whites Kaiserin Augusta Victoria is unquestionably the best, in spite of the furore excited by Frau Karl Druschki. This latter in spite of its dazzling whiteness and immense size is not of good form, is apt to be short in stem, is poor as a summer bloomer, and is subject to mildew, in all of which points the Kaiserin excels. Pope Leo XIII has much merit—hardy in growth, splendid in foliage, it yields freely its peculiar, though pleasingly formed blooms.

The White Cochet is really a yellow, especially when well grown, shaded with

pink. Others, on the yellow order, are Marie Van Houte, Coquette de Lyon, Sunset, Perle de Jardin, Joseph Hill and Georges Schwartz. The last, a glorious color, but a feeble grower.

Of the pinks, Maman Cochet must come first as a constant bloomer and grower. Caroline Testout is a lovely color. Duchess de Brabant, everyone knows. La France seems to have entirely lost its constitution. Bridesmaid is good and Madame Abel Chatenay, a shaded pink, is most excellent.

General McArthur, a new red, is proving its merit. It has a delightful odor, grows vigorously, maintains its color well, and blooms constantly. Ulrich Bruner still is in the first rank of reds; Richmond is promising; the old favorite, Papa Gontier, holds its own, but the American Beauty and Magna Charta turn magenta in our eternal sunshine.

Among the Twlyantha, Cecile Bruner holds first place, as it does among all roses, with most growers. Both bush and climbing sorts are equally fine. Perle d'Or is of a similar type, but buff where Cecile is pink.

Dorothy Perkins, a rather new pink climber, of a rambler type, is the rage just now. It grows like a squash vine, only faster, and comes into a pink glow of bloom in June, when most of the other varieties have gone on strike. For arbors, pergolas and trellises, it is not to be matched. Other good climbers are Beauty of Glazenvwood, a sunset glory; Reve d'Or yellow, Madame Alfred Carrere white, Lamarque white, W. A. Richardson orange, climbing Papa Gontier red, white and pink Cherokee, the pink a new introduction of surpassing merit.

By no means all the roses of merit in this locality have been mentioned, but those that have been are safe, except where otherwise noted.

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Subscriptions for The California Garden received by Rodney Stokes, 860 Third Street.

## THE JULY GARDEN IN SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

GEO. P. HALL

While in the East garden operations in July are confined to simply caring for what has been sown or planted, and the idea of extension is not considered, in this all-the-year-growing-climate each month brings its new order of garden succession of planting. While less is planted in July than any other month of the year, yet it is an important month because it is largely preparatory to the following months of active garden work. It is a month of active cultivation, and where, as has been the case this season, the months of May and June have been exceptionally cool, the probabilities are that the autumn months will make up for the spring deficiency of warmth by an extended season of warm, growing weather, far into the opening winter months. It is wise, therefore, to plant more corn for later table use, and the delicate Casaba melons should be planted for late bearing, and even more melons of every sort will be prolific and hastened on during the warmer months to come, which will soon open upon us. Both the Broad English and dwarf bush beans can be profitably planted, as well as late cabbage plants and cauliflower seed, to be ready for planting next month for the early winter crop. Egg plant, peppers and tomatoes should be well cared for to stimulate rapid growth, and tomatoes may be "layered" down to take root for new plants, which may be cut away from the parent plant as soon as they have formed good roots; plants can also be set out for late bearing in order to get well stocked with green fruit that will ripen during the months when the night temperature will range down about 40 to 50 degrees and the day temperature not above 70—rather too cool for successful pollination, but excellent for growing and ripening of the fruit. Kale for fowls, lettuce, parsnips and peas are in the order

of vegetable procession. Sweet potatoes can be planted with the assurance the crop will mature and the ground should be prepared by plowing in manure for the planting of Irish potatoes in August. It is always in order to plant more radishes, and with the application of nitrate of soda in water keep them growing rapidly, which gives crispness. Spinach seed should be sown; also Swedish turnips, better known perhaps as rutalagas—they thrive better in warm days than the white or strap leaves. For fodder sorghum may be sown in drills, as may corn and millet, dhura corn and kaffir corn. It is a good month to plant all citrus fruits, loquats and guavas. All transplanting should be done in the evening, so the cool and shade of the night and possibly the next morning may aid the plant in recovering from its shock. Water all transplanted growth well; cultivate to a dust, mulch everything after irrigation, run water in drills next to plants rather than sprinkle too much, which is deceptive; you do not get as much water to the plant as you think you do. Put manure in liquid form and apply direct to the roots to ensure steady growth and no lapse from hunger. Prepare ground by manuring and plowing in, for strawberries to be planted next month. Get good runners from plants that have not been impoverished by over-bearing.

Peas and beans should be sulphured if they show signs of coming mildew, and even when planting a little sulphur sown in the drills with the peas will be a good preventative against the mildew, but if not a complete preventative, use it by dusting on as soon as the peas are above ground.

Use Bordeaux mixture if tomatoes show any signs of brown spot, and the saturated solution—as much as will dissolve in the water you take—and applied to the fruit that shows signs of spotting, will be a cure, if persistently applied.

For black aphis on melons cover the

vines with a tub tightly edged with soil, and put under the tub over the vine a small dish of bi-sulphide of carbon—inflammable like gasoline—a cure also for “jumping beans” that have insects inside of them. Cover the vines completely in road dust for twelve hours, then wash with clean water, and the greasy black aphis will be rolled off in the dust which adheres to their sticky bodies which seriously object to a bath.

A repellent against almost any kind of “bugs” is crude carbolic acid mixed with lime flour or dust and sprinkled around the base of the plants.

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## ROMNEYA COULTERI, OR MATILJA POPPY

K. O. SESSIONS

Exceeding all other poppies in the world is this half shrubby, perennial-rooted plant, six to fifteen feet high, with sage green leaves and immense bright white, crumpled silken flowers, six to nine inches in diameter. It is a native to the ravines and stream banks of Southern California, from Santa Barbara county to Ensenada, Lower California. It was discovered about 1832 by Dr. Thomas Coulter, and was dedicated to his astronomer friend, Dr. Romney Robinson. The original of this sketch was a stray seedling in a San Diego garden about fourteen years ago. It differs from the two types growing wild about Otay and Jamul and other sections. Note the very smooth and pointed bud, the half-opened bud, the very large stamen cluster, the large and deeply cleft leaves. The other varieties have rounded hairy buds and smaller leaves, and there is never seen a half-opened bud; the flowers have a more circular appearance and are not so large.

The Romneya is difficult to propagate and transplant. About October 15 the plants should be severely trimmed back and after the first rains, or No-



ROMNEYA COULTERI, OR MATILJJA POPPY

vember 1st, transplant those that are to be moved. They should not be moved unless absolutely necessary. They spread and increase by underground shoots until a clump will soon occupy a large space. They may also be propagated by root cuttings in the fall in the nursery.

It is possible to cut half-blown buds, like the subject illustrated and ship as far as San Francisco, and they will open up large and perfect.

Every Southern California garden should grow this plant, and it is to be hoped that the nucleus now in the City Park will some day occupy at least ten acres.

This poppy is the treasured plant of a few English gardeners, and it has been grown in Vermont for three years with careful winter protection. It thrives in the light soil of Coronado, as it requires a well-drained location.

This flower is one of the most difficult to paint, and is only occasionally well done. San Diego's artist, Mr. A. L. Valentine, is one who can equal nature, and his sketches of this flower will help bring fame to this deserving queen of wild flowers.

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## THE PRIZE CONTEST FOR HOME GARDENS

J. W. RUSSELL

To give prizes for the best home gardens by children, now familiar to us, was more novel and unknown nearly three years ago, when the Russell Prizes were first offered, than we might suppose. A plot of ground at a school house, in which the scholars shall have a little piece to grow things, is a much older idea; but such does not beautify the ground about the many homes of the children, although the school garden may lead to the improvement of the home later.

It seems that to the City of Waltham, Mass., is due the honor of first offering prizes to the children for the best home

gardens, for this they did first in 1906, only one year before San Diego—and the writer knows of no other city to precede us in this excellent work. In the spring of 1907, when Mrs. J. W. Russell first offered prizes, it was unknown to her that such was done the year before in Waltham.

"The City Beautiful" idea for San Diego, may be said to have been born in a meeting of the San Diego Art Association, March, 1907, at which Mrs. Russell was present.

This city, for which nature has done everything and man next to nothing, Mrs. Russell wished to see in all respects made beautiful, and happily thought of interesting the many school children. At the next monthly meeting of the Art Association, she made a formal offer of prizes to be awarded under their auspices. In making this offer, she said: "As a means of interesting the school children to improve their back yards, which they may think of as their own little city to make beautiful, I am glad to offer a series of cash prizes." The idea was thought well of from the first, and the work undertaken and carried on for two years by an excellent committee, with Mrs. A. H. Sweet, as chairman.

Our Floral Association, which was organized after the above work was started, was recently thought by Mrs. Russell and others to be the one most naturally adapted to carry on the work. It was therefore transferred to our Association. Mrs. T. J. Daley, who had been formerly interested in this work, was appointed chairman.

The past season a total of 218 scholars, in the seven public schools, entered the contest for prizes; 190 continued in the contest. This latter number were furnished free transportation to Tent City, Coronado, for a day's outing. 62 contestants received prizes, and 13 others had done so well with their gardens as to receive honorable mention. The daily papers have recently given

such full accounts of last season's work that further mention in this brief article is not necessary.

The work has had the hearty approval of Superintendent of Public Schools Mr. McKinnon, the principals and teachers. General Robe early showed his appreciation by the offer of twelve gold fountain pens each year for neatness in the garden. The late George Cook, engineer, gave \$10.00, as did also Mrs. M. German. Mr. George P. Hall and Miss Kate Sessions and others, have aided; and may always be counted upon as friends of the children in their effort to make San Diego a City Beautiful.

In 1906, The Waltham Home Garden Association was formed. Its work has grown rapidly. The great Waltham Watch Co. last year added \$75.00 cash to the prizes offered by the Association.

It is hoped that great things will be done each succeeding year by the San Diego Floral Association, and their friends, in this home garden work by the children. "Lend a hand."

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#### NOTICE OF MEETING.

The San Diego Floral Association will hold its July meeting the evening of the 13th, with Mrs. Jarvis L. Doyle, 3328 G Street. Members are requested to bring with them floral specimens, and to be prepared to consider the best means of maintaining an exhibit in the Chamber of Commerce rooms. The question of preliminary work for the fall exhibition will also be discussed.

Dues of the Association for the year '09-'10 are now payable to the Secretary, Rodney Stokes, 860 Third street, or L. A. Blochman, 635 Fifth street.

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Floral Association members who are out of town for an outing must bring to the club meetings reports of plant life which they have observed—and they must be more observing each year. Geo P Hall

#### Annual Meeting of San Diego Floral Association

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On June 8th, in the San Diego Club House, the Floral Association celebrated its second birthday. The attendance reached over one hundred, and was representative, though many prominent members were unavoidably restrained from being there. The reports of the Secretary and Treasurer showed a balance on hand of \$90, and 261 members paid up. Not much of the President's report was taken up with reviewing the doings of the past year, but he feelingly referred to the passing from the ranks of Mrs. E. B. Scott and George Cooke, and the whole audience rose from their seats and remained standing a moment in reverent tribute to their memory. After brief remarks on the general conduct of the Association for the coming year, he suggested the publication of a monthly magazine, to be the organ of the body and also a general garden guide for San Diego and vicinity.

After acceptance of the reports, the following officers were elected for the the coming year: President, Alfred D. Robinson; First Vice-President, Mrs. Frank Salmons; Second Vice-President, Hon. Lyman J. Gage; Treasurer, L. A. Blochman; Secretary, Rodney Stokes, and these form the Directorate. The following committee was appointed to arrange for publication of magazine: L. A. Blochman, K. O. Sessions, Mrs. Manasse, F. A. Frye and A. D. Robinson. At this point L. A. Blochman, acting as spokesman, in a neat speech presented the President with a token of esteem in which the members held him. It took the form of a glass flower bowl with a wavy, broad edge, beautifully decorated with a floral design, silver deposit, and inscribed, "A. D. Robinson, from his Floral Association friends, June 8, 1909." It was filled with pink carnations and maidenhair.

A pleasing musical program, refreshments and dancing concluded the enjoyable occasion.

# The California Garden

Published Monthly by the San Diego Floral Association

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Vol. 1

SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA, AUGUST, 1909

No. 2

We believe that the San Diego Floral Association and The California Garden are public institutions, merit-ing the support of this community generally. In this belief we beg to emphasize a few points. The sub-scription to the association, including that to the magazine for one year, is only one dollar. This amount does not allow of the employment of paid services to advance its activities. Those who bear the burden of this work are comparatively few in num-ber. Most of them are actively en-gaged in other business. Is it too much to ask every one to make the work as easy as possible? We think not. In this issue of The Garden are inserted two blank forms—one for sub-scription to the magazine, the other for application for membership to the association. The fiscal year of the association runs from June 1st to May 30th the following year, so that every member who has not paid since the first date is in arrears. We ask that every one will use the inserted blanks and save the association the expense and trouble of personal solici-tation. Do this at once, and encour-age those who are working unself-ishly to make San Diego a garden spot.

The first number of the California Garden has been well received. It

has been pronounced "just what we want" by the real flower lovers. Every number can and will be im-proved as public support permits. Show your copy to your neighbors, and give them the opportunity of profiting by its timely and practical guidance. Write to the paper of your difficulties and successes; treat it as a friend indeed, and it will prove a friend in need.

There are in this community, as in every other, individuals who have original information on gardening subjects and who are capable of ex-pressing such in intelligible language. To such The California Garden offers its columns. Further, it solicits such matter, as it desires to be itself and not a rehash of something else.

The design that this month decor-ates the cover of California Garden is the work of A. R. Valentien, whose reputation as a floral artist is firmly and deservedly established throughout the States. The Matilija Poppy fur-nishes the motif, and is a most appro-priate selection for a publication in this section. Although much occupied at this time with a tremendous work, of which we hope to say more at some future time, Mr. Valentien vol-un-teered to donate a design for our cover, and that his offer was of mater-ial and decorative value to the mag-a-zine, our readers this month will fully appreciate.

## THE AUGUST FLOWER GARDEN

K. O. SESSIONS

Have you watered faithfully during July? Then keep right on during August—less on cloudy days, of course.

When you water the shrubs, trees or roses at intervals you should avoid the mistake of digging a deep circular trench, or basin, around the plant and filling it with water. This trench-making means that the young roots of the plants are generally severely mutilated. It is a most pernicious practice. It is much better to form a basin by scraping soil from a distance and making a ring or dam above the surface and using this basin thus formed to hold the water—twice filled should be sufficient. The second day after watering rake away the extra soil, cultivate the soil, not too deeply, unless the tree or shrub is large and well established.

A permanent basin 2 to 3 inches deep and the surface mulched with grass clippings or sawdust is not to be misunderstood with the deep trench that destroys, or deep cultivating with the hoe that cuts off good and new roots. The potato fork, a sort of hoe made from a pitchfork or spading fork, is the best cultivating tool.

The watsonias and freesias bulbs must be set this month for early results, and if you did not get in the seed of good annuals for the winter in July there is still time to plant—but do so at once.

The Chrysanthemums must be staked, and the young shoots forming in the axil of the leaves must be thoroughly cut out, or the plants will have too many branches and too many buds, and then too many blooms to be prize-winners. Quality and not quantity is desirable in “mums.”

The new and strong shoots on roses should also be staked and directed from now on.

If you have any of the clinging vines upon your house or fences, now is the time to direct their growth. The general culture for these vines is to keep the young and growing ends pressed closely against the surface that they are clinging to. If the surface is wood, then thin strips of wood, or even cloth, can hold them in place by tacking—but if the surface is cement, or stone or plaster, a small, thin board, held in place over the stems with a brace, or any simple contrivance you may choose, will do. However, if you wish to make the task very easy, plant a shingle against the house where the vine is to grow, and tack vine to the shingle. After the shingle is well covered the shoots will spread over the hard surface rapidly. As the vines become attached and are thriving, if any shoots do not cling, or the wind blows them loose, cut them entirely off at the point where clinging stops. The new growth from that point will be sure to stick.

The ampelopsis vines—Boston Ivy and Virginia Creeper—prefer the north and shady sides and are deciduous in the winter for two months

The *ficus repens* is evergreen and will flourish on the south side as well as on the other exposures. Very fine specimens of this vine are growing on the south wall of the C. P. Douglass residence, northeast corner Second and Nutmeg streets, and only three years old.

*Ficus pumila* is a very fine and dainty vine, but as yet is only growing in the shady corners. It promises to be very beautiful, but is a slow grower.

*Bignonia Tweediana* is an evergreen and loves to climb high. It is conspicuous on the high south chimney at the residence on the northwest corner of Walnut and First streets; also on the south side of the Congregational church.

This vine should be pruned back each March for three years. Then it becomes a spreading and strong clinging vine. The vines on the church were pruned in April, for the first time since being planted nearly ten years ago. To observe the new growth on those old plants will be very interesting. The vine on the tower was not trimmed. It grows so rapidly after trimming and improves so much that one need not hesitate to cut back a plant that is thin and scraggly. This *bignonia* is excellent for trimming high chimneys, roofs and overhanging eaves. It blooms beautifully during May, with clear yellow flowers, two inches across.

All these clinging vines need severe pruning when most dormant, and, in general, they should not be allowed to completely cover a surface, and never

to cling to window casings and the glass but for the growing season.

The very rough surface of many plastered houses and walls is not favorable for clinging vines. The smoother surface of cement, plaster or brick is much better for their clinging.

The English Ivy is the least desirable of clinging vines, because with age the stems become bare and very ugly. Severe and frequent pruning to the ground keeps the growth new and fresh and attractive.

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## WALKS IN MY GARDEN

ALFRED D. ROBINSON

"And God walked with Adam in the garden in the cool of the evening."

If I were asked to deliver a sermon I would choose this as my text. It comes to my mind every time I walk in my garden and try and interpret the thousand voices that rise up from ground and plant and shrub that whisper in the trees and float on the evening breeze. I have wondered at such times why every human being is not a gardener, why each and every one will not accept the invitation to walk with God in the garden in the cool of the evening. Surely those who do not, know nothing of what is there, and it is proposed by the California Garden to have a personally conducted walk every month.

Come, this early August and let me try and open your eyes to a few of the wonderful things God has prepared for them that love his work. We leave the dusty road, with its margin of parched weeds and shrubs,

whose appearance of death is so real that it requires quite an effort of faith to realize that they but sleep till the coming of the rains, and enter an avenue of *Polyanthema Eucalyptus*, planted but seventeen months, but which have grown from six-inch slips to 12-foot trees in that time. The warm weather, together with water and cultivation, has started every nerve and fibre into a supreme effort of growth. The trunks swell so quickly that the outside bark splits and peels. The tips of the branches show plum colored against the grey of the matured leaves, and the whole tree rustles with the bursting life. There are over thirty of these trees, alike looked at as a whole, but varying strangely when inspected closely, both in color and form. And all this was contained in less than a thimbleful of seed two years ago. Another avenue of *Ficifolia Eucalyptus* crosses this one. These have been in such a hurry to attain to the dignity of trees, that in the same time they have topped the *Polyanthema* by several feet, but they have let their ambition be their undoing. Their growth is soft, and they lean upon a stake to keep upright. Their ruddy tips bend earthwards, and sway with every puff of wind. Only one has made haste slowly, and that for a reward is crowned with brilliant scarlet bloom among which the bees buzz all day, when they can pass the lane lined with *Lagunaria*, all pink with its waxy blooms.

Three long rows of double Sunflowers insist upon notice. They

blaze with the gold they have found in the earth, and they show the result of as many experiments as those made by the seekers after the philosopher's stone, only all are pure gold. Some flowers are round as a ball, with every petal even; others have a fringe of long petals; some curled like a chrysanthemum—the forms are numberless. Yet all the seed came from one head. What fruitfulness—what a gigantic effort in five short months to produce that twelve-foot stalk, those enormous leaves, that mass of golden balls! Surely God walked in the garden.

The roses are catching their breath after a hard three-months' work, and are storing energy to begin again. An occasional bloom marks their identity in most cases, but that glorious white Kaiserin Augusta Victoria is still crowned with bridal offerings; General McArthur flaunts its red flag, and Madame Abel Chatenay blushes pink in the sunshine. Of course that dainty miniature, Madame Cecil Bruner, finds time to make flowers and throw out great strong new growth, too. She is perseverance personified, and should be in every lazy man's garden as an antidote.

A bed of young carnations, grey like the sea when the sun is hidden by a cloud, is sending up its stiff stalks. It plainly says: "For months you have nipped me back when I tried to respond to your cultivation and other attentions—now let me bloom." And here and there, over the grey sea, are spots of color, pink and red and white, where the claws are reach-

ing out of the calyx. In a month's time the carnations will dominate the garden with their clove odor, and every morning yield up their blooms, glad to have energy to do it all over again.

All the thousands of plants are at work—some storing energy, some giving it out, possibly looking to the man who shall give them the environment they need, as a child trusts to its mother. Certainly returning him, for his labor, that health of mind and body which lies in the touch of mother earth and the things that grow therein.

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## THE AUGUST VEGETABLE GARDEN

GEORGE P. HALL

August, the month of richest treasure of fruits and flowers, is also in California the month of most important plantings of the delicious strawberry and useful tomato and potato—it being necessary to plant the latter during this month in order to ripen its full-measured crop before the cool nights of December arrive.

We mentioned the needed preparation of the soil for the strawberry, last month, but if the matter had been delayed, the spot where you wish to cultivate the acquaintance of the very best quality of the multitudinous strawberry family can still be made sufficiently rich by using well-rotted manure plowed or spaded in not more than three or four inches, after having plowed the spot deeply before, the object being to have the sub-soil well

broken up and the fertilizer not too deep in the soil, as the strawberry is not a deep-rooted plant and is distressed if it has to wait for the elevator to bring its supplies, it wants them near at hand, concealed sufficiently to retain moisture and be a constant source of supply. For the cool weather months there is no strawberry that has done better than the Saltzer, Brandywine as the later summer cropper, with Lady Thompson, Dunlap, Senator or Klondike as followers. If strawberries are kept in constant bearing and the plants from these are taken, it is quite probable each season will make a little lower average in size and flavor. If possible obtain plants from beds that are especially used for the rearing of the plants instead of fruit, then these plants will turn their best efforts toward supplying the table with choicest berries. It is well to plant two or three varieties, as some strawberries are not self-fertile. All the above mentioned are, however, but in introducing new varieties it is important to know from the dealer if they are self-fertile or need the presence of a staminate variety in order to insure fruit production rather than being compelled to sing "Nothing but Leaves." If planted in August and well cared for, you may reasonably expect a small crop by Christmas, and with the Saltzer an increase every month thereafter during the winter.

In the vegetable line the planting of potatoes is most important, as it brings the principal crop for winter use. Care should be taken to plant

good tubers of medium size, or good-sized pieces. One in a hill is better than several small pieces. Select the smooth, thin-skinned tubers, with eyes not deeply sunk in the tuber. Be sure and plant in a different place, if possible, from where you planted them last February, especially if there were any signs of scab, or the soil was full of insects; and, in any event, if the ground has been used a long time a good coating of unslaked lime will be an aid in ridding the spot of both scab and worms. The potato is a lover of nitrogen and potash—.21 nitrogen, .29 potash and .07 phosphoric acid—so if you sow the soil with nitrate of soda at rate of 300 pounds per acre (put on one-third before planting, one-third two weeks apart after potatoes are up) you will add largely to the increase of your crop. Nitrate of soda is easily dissolved, like salt or sugar, and while it does the land little service it is an immediately available source of food for the potato. Most of our soils have sufficient potash, but, if needed, the sulphate of potash is preferable to the muriate for potatoes, and a few pounds added to the soil before planting will be beneficial. If you have it, the sweepings from the chicken yard applied in the furrows, before planting, will furnish the needed phosphoric acid; but for single crop vegetables, that quickly make their round of life, you need a quick-acting stimulant like nitrogen to urge the progress to best results. September and October are often quite warm, and particular attention should be given to see that the soil never gets

dry to a point where the potato suffers for moisture. If it does, the crop will fail.

It is just as important to get a good start with the tomato crop for winter-bearing so they will set an abundance of fruit for winter-ripening. They, too, are fond of nitrogen, and it can most cheaply be secured in nitrate of soda, which you can procure from seedsmen at a cost of 4 cents a pound. Use about same proportions as for potatoes, only sow on the surface and dissolve with the irrigation water after plants are well started.

Crimson Cushion, Livingstones, Acme and Trophy are good for winter, as well as the Earliana and Germains' Winter Queen. If you have some especially good plants, that you know bear fine tomatoes, layer some of the lower limbs and let them take root, then transplant them for bearing; or cuttings if well-watered and shaded will bring good results. Be sure and get healthy plants. Juvenile tomatoes are apt to catch all that is going. It is well to treat them to a spraying of Bordeaux occasionally, on the same principle that Hans licked the boy—he would need it sometime, if not then.

Quite late enough for pepper and egg plants, okra and sweet potatoes, but if well cared for will come out before Mr. John Frost arrives. On the uplands, plant all the beets, cabbage, lettuce and small fry you did not plant last month.

Too late for watermelons, and cucumbers will be displeased because they have to come to second table.

They detest being sprinkled on hot days in Autumn.

It takes corn 75 to 90 days to make roasting ears, so if planted now would be in by Thanksgiving.

Kentucky Wonder or wax beans will be ready for use in from 60 to 75 days, and you can get a good crop of Limas.

Plant the usual monthly rows of peas and spinach—never out of time to plant them—and if you want greens, like you had in "Mizzouri," put in a row of mustard. If you want something to remember the season by plant garlic, leeks and onions—all good breath developers for grand opera occasions.

It is a good month to put in catnip, pennyroyal, hoarhound and rue. Be sure and keep the soil well pulverized at the surface so as to hold the moisture you put in the irrigation furrows close beside your plants. Break up and cover with two or three inches of dry soil, as soon as the rows are dry enough not to stick to the hoe when you stir them. Irrigation and aeration in August are very important operations for the benefit of both plant and soil.

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## MAIDENHAIR FERN

ALFRED D. ROBINSON

Our illustration this month shows a hanging basket of Maidenhair Fern and a Bertha McGregor begonia. Its dimensions are four and a half feet wide by three feet deep, and individual fronds of the maidenhair measure twenty-eight inches. Every part of

it has grown without other protection than the ordinary lath-house, and within the last five months, although, of course, the roots have been well established in the hanging basket for two years. Last year its growth was equally large and fine.

The variety of maidenhair is the *Cuneatum*—that usually grown by the florists for cutting until a few years ago, when another *Croweannum* came into favor. There are a large number of the maidenhair ferns, but most of them require greenhouse conditions, and a bare half-dozen kinds have succeeded with me under lath in this locality—the two named; *Aethiopicum*, a very wide-spreading fronded variety, of light color, exceedingly handsome; *Pedatum*, *Gracilimum*, a charming tiny-leaved thing; and *Grandiceps*, the latter having a well-defined tassel on each frond. Possibly a brief account of the treatment given this basket may be helpful. As stated, it is in a lath-house, protected overhead and to the South by other growth, and of course sheltered from direct wind or draught. In the afternoon it gets quite considerable sunlight filtered through the lath. The material used in making up the basket was leafmold from under a scrub oak and sphagnum moss, which has not been renewed in the two years. The good growth I largely ascribe to keeping it always wet, and using manure water twice a week when the growth was most vigorous, but none during the resting period. This manure water is easily made by steeping preferably cow manure (quite



fresh if other is not handy) in water, and then diluting for use to the color of weak tea. No such stimulant when basket was at all dry or dormant. In watering I was careful to wet the whole mass. Another element in success I believe to be the hanging basket, rather than a pot, as it allows of copious drenching with perfect drainage, and I prefer to keep the ground under the basket wet also at all times, the rising of the moisture to the leaves being a valuable assistance to their perfect development.

### CARE OF ROSES

E. BENARD

During the month of August the roses are losing some of the grace and beauty they had during the spring. Many sorts are dormant, and the varieties which bloom are producing flowers of a poor quality. It is preferable to not allow them to grow this time of the year—they want some rest.

As a rule, do not sprinkle the rose-bushes—irrigate them. By so doing you will avoid the troublesome mildew of the foliage, which weakens the vitality of the branches that will produce the blooming shoots later on.

The mildew is far worse in some sections than others, and certain varieties are particularly subject to it. Powdered sulphur applied promptly on the foliage as soon as disease appears (in the morning is the best time) will check its progress.

Aphis, or green flies, insects which appear on the new soft wood, can be

kept off your plants by sprinkling with a strong stream of water. If persistent, tobacco water and a little whale-oil soap, thoroughly dissolved, will keep them in check.

After each irrigating around rose-bushes, cultivate and stir the soil thoroughly. Remove the weak branches of the last year's growth. They will not produce blooms of good quality and absorb some of the energy of the plants for future blooming branches.

### CULTIVATING THE HOME GARDEN

CHARLES CRISTADORO

If those who have studied the ways of the Indians of Northern Mexico report correctly, we must give credit to the prehistoric ancestors of these Indians for being the first ones to scientifically cultivate the semi-arid soil, actually evolving a process of automatic irrigation and fertilization.

The garden of a Mexican Indian is a revelation. He uses a wooden plow, very likely of the same pattern used a thousand, maybe ten thousand years, ago. He watches the clouds and takes good care to plow his garden deeply and well, and at the *right time*, opening up this automatic reservoir to receive every drop of rain that falls, and then destroying capillary attraction and evaporation by harrowing the soil, and, as it were, sealing up with a moisture-proof blanket of mulch the fallen water.

Who taught the Indian that a crusted garden surface, firm and sun-

baked, was nothing more or less than equivalent to putting tubes into the earth through which the rays of the sun could draw up the water from a hundred inches down to feed it to the thirsty air?

Again, who taught the Indian that sagebrush soil, when opened up and cultivated, admitting the right amount of moisture and air, becomes automatically fertilized through the bacteriazation of the nitrogen in the soil?

The farmer of the dry lands, who has no irrigating ditch or means, except the clouds above, follows the example of the prehistoric Mexican Indian, but *his* method is referred to as "Scientific Dry Farming."

It is this method of cultivating the soil, this, as it were, automatic irrigating and fertilizing of the two hundred millions of acres of dry land "above the ditch", in this great southwestern country, that is to give us our wheaten bread supply of the future.

And the moral of all this is: Cultivate, cultivate, cultivate! Dig deeply, store up the moisture and cultivate your garden, remembering that a crusted surface is nothing more nor less than an automatic suction pump, that, under the sun's fierce rays, never stops working.

A well-dug garden and constant mulching of the surface is worth more, in the estimation of those who know, than surface sprinkling every little while.

If you want a garden you will be proud of, a prize garden, cultivate, and cultivate some more.

### Report of Regular Monthly Meeting of San Diego Floral Association

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The warm evenings of July brought the long expected treat to the Floral Association of meeting with Mrs. Jarvis L. Doyle and enjoying her hospitality under those glorious pepper trees in her garden at 3328 G Street. Chinese lanterns illumined by electric light gave a soft light on the groups of members chatting around and partaking of the delicious refreshments. It was a garden party as well as a most interesting meeting. The session opened with the introduction of The California Garden, and those present expressed themselves as more than pleased with the initial issue.

The matter of a floral exhibit at the Chamber of Commerce rooms was fully discussed, resulting in the appointment of the following committee to furnish flowers for the month on the days mentioned: Monday, A. D. Robinson; Wednesday, M. German; Friday, Mrs. T. J. Daley.

A number of specimens of flowers were exhibited, and their culture and habits discussed, among which might be mentioned: Campanula and Scabiosa, Mrs. T. J. Daley; Wild Azalea and Tiger Lilies from Palomar Mountain, Mrs. Ed. Fletcher; Double Sunflowers and Roses, the President.

During the evening Mrs. Armstrong gave some charming recitations, "The Petrified Fern," and others; and the whole evening was as enjoyable as any the association has had in its history.

## The Fall Floral Exhibition

As has been its custom for the last two years, the San Diego Floral Association will give a fall exhibition the end of October, and for the guidance of intending exhibitors it desires to call attention to the classes for which awards will be made, to the end that specimens may be fitted for exhibition.

Chrysanthemums will be given great prominence, it being the fall flower par excellence. Roses will be taken care of, though, in limited classes. Carnations should be largely in evidence, and there is the Association handsome cup for the best twelve of any one variety. Dahlias ought to make a much better showing than they have done so far. Annuals and perennials will not be forgotten.

House plants of all kinds, palms, ferns, hanging baskets, in fact, every form of growth that shows well at that time of year will have its opportunity. The San Diego Floral Association urges its members and all flower-lovers to make an effort to be an exhibitor. Although it is expected that all exhibits shall have been grown on the property of the exhibitor for at least two months there is plenty of time to secure a specimen now, if one is not on hand. The value of an exhibition lies largely in the ever-increasing numbers of its exhibitors as an expression of a growing interest in floriculture, and the hard-working citizens behind this movement have a right to expect this endorsement of their unselfish interests.

The full premium list is in prepar-

ation and will be published in the September number of *The California Garden*.

## Notice of August Meeting

The Floral Association will meet with Mrs. T. J. Daley, 2929 First Street, the evening of August 10th. Take Third Street car and get off at the corner of Fir; or the D and First car, which passes the door.

A very interesting program has been prepared. Carnations will be discussed, with specimen blooms to illustrate, and advice given as to the care of chrysanthemums at this season. A good musical program will also be rendered. All members are urged to bring specimens from their garden, and especially carnations.

The Rev. W. Thorp will deliver an address on the "Ethics of the Floral Association."

The walls of the hospitable Daley house should fairly crack with the crowded attendance.

NOTE—Those interested in new and valuable fruits for small gardens will be interested in reading a valuable article in the July "Pacific Garden" by D. W. Coolidge of Pasadena, on the Feijoa. This journal is among the periodicals of the Floral Association at the Chamber of Commerce. Another article on "Cistrum" in the same number is of value and interest.

# The California Garden

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PUBLISHED MONTHLY BY  
THE SAN DIEGO FLORAL ASSOCIATION  
At 858 Third Street, San Diego, California

Subscription, per year . . . . . 50 cents

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## Report of August Meeting of the San Diego Floral Association

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Mr. and Mrs. T. J. Daley entertained the Association at their home on First street, on the evening of August 10th. The members turned out in force, fully a hundred being present. Letters from strangers in San Diego, who had received flowers with the Association tag attached, were read and they feelingly expressed appreciation of what was to them a novel feature in civic activities. Miss Sessions gave a most practical talk as to the proper treatment of chrysanthemums at this season, and illustrated her advice with a sample plant she brought with her. Her remarks were received with much interest, and many questions were put and answered.

The president introduced the subject of carnations, and showed several specimen blooms he had grown from seedlings at Point Loma,—one an immense flower four inches in diameter. Miss Mathews sent some fine gladiolus. It was decided to hold the next meeting at Lemon Grove in the afternoon of September 9, and committees were appointed to arrange for transportation and program.

Music was provided by Professor

Hargrave and his family, and their efforts met with hearty applause. Dr. Louise Heilbron recited "The Moss Rose", by request, and many a member who heard her had added regrets that this variety won't grow in San Diego.

The committee to supply flowers for Chamber of Commerce exhibit was named as follows: Monday, Miss Sessions; Wednesday, Mrs. T. J. Daley; Friday, Miss Mathews.

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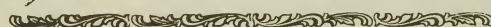
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## OBJECTS

- To promote knowledge of Floriculture.
  - To stimulate the intelligent love of flowers.
  - To beautify the house, school and public grounds of San Diego.
  - To hold flower exhibitions.
  - To exploit the geniality of this section from the point of view of the lover of flowers.
  - And all such other matters as may properly pertain to such an Association.
-